

Duxbury got GATRA[✓]

Bus service between
Kingston and Duxbury
starts in January

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After ten years of working on a plan to provide bus service to Duxbury, service through GATRA (Greater Attleboro/Taunton Regional Transit Authority) has finally been approved and is set to begin mid to late January.

In June, selectmen voted to join GATRA and become a voting member of the GATRA board. Director of the Council on Aging Joanne Moore has been working

with Regional Director of GATRA Frank Gay, to provide necessary service to citizens of Duxbury.

"It has been a long project, I am excited to get to the shuttle on the road," Moore said.

Changes in the law governing mass transit funding approved by then Governor Mitt Romney in December 2006 created the opportunity for Duxbury to join the regional transportation service. After the town received a letter from the state informing them of the change in the legislation, planning director Christine Stickney took the lead role in contacting Gay and meeting with him to try and begin establishing a service in town.

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Bus service coming in January

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The town of Duxbury is allotted \$93,000 yearly through the MBTA for shuttle service. Previously, the town was unable to use the money because they did not provide MBTA services in Duxbury. Under the direction of Romney the law changed allowing GATRA to provide service utilizing the monies from the MBTA state assessed funds.

The annual cost for the service will be \$70,000. Through the service, for an additional cost, GATRA can also provide bus service for disabled citizens who are unable to get to the regular stops. The service would run during the same hours as bus service is provided in Duxbury, but would be reserved through a 24-hour call-ahead system. The additional cost for handicap bus service is still being worked out.

The GATRA bus service contracts their routes through the Plymouth and Brockton Street

Railway Company to provide bus service from Kingston through Duxbury. GATRA will be responsible for providing rates and routes for the service, while Plymouth and Brockton Railway will provide drivers and maintenance services.

Mark Richardson from the Plymouth Brockton Railway said he hopes the route will provide ridership from all ages with connections between the schools, the mall, town hall, the business district and the commuter rail. "It is a good combination between commuters, students and residents," he said. "There are all different types of folks who ride the bus."

The approximate 20-person GATRA bus will run weekly from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The early morning and late afternoon early evening routes will include stops at the Kingston commuter rail for residents commuting to Boston. Throughout the day, on an hourly schedule, the bus will

run from Town Hall, through Halls Corner, Island Creek, the Kingston Plaza, Turas Pharmacy, Rocky Nook, and the Kingston Mall. The bus will also make mid-day stops at the Duxbury Free Library between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. for library and school access.

The cash rate fares for the fixed route GATRA service are; \$1 for a full fare, or .50 cents for a half fare for persons over 60, persons with a disability, and students through high school. GATRA will also offer four different pass options for the fixed route. A one-day pass is \$3 for a full fare and \$1.50 for a half fare, a three-day pass is \$9 for a full fare and \$4 for a half fare, a ten-ride pass is \$9 for full fare and \$4 for a half fare, and a monthly pass is \$30 for a full fare and \$15 for a half fare.

"We have spent ten years working on this, perseverance pays off," selectmen Betsy Sullivan said about the new GATRA bus service starting in January.